

Appl. No. 09/848,982  
Amendment After Final Rejection

### REMARKS

The present application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 14, 2005. Claims 1 to 35 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 12, 23 and 34 are independent. Claims 1, 12, 23, 26 and 34 are being amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,418,951 (Damashek) and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0152204 (Ortega). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to the language of the claims, Claim 1 defines a method of text equivalencing from a query string of characters. According to the method, the query string is modified using a predetermined set of heuristics. A character-by-character comparison of the modified query string with at least one known string of characters in a corpus is performed in order to locate a match. In response to not finding an exact match, a plurality of sub-strings of characters are formed from the query string. The formed sub-strings have varying length such that at least two of the formed sub-strings differ in length. An information retrieval technique is used on the sub-strings formed from the query string to identify a known string of characters equivalent to the query string.

The applied art, namely Damashek and Ortega, is not seen to show each and every one of the above features, particularly as regards, forming, in response to not finding an exact match, a plurality of substrings of characters from a query string, the sub-strings having varying lengths such that at least two of the formed sub-strings differ in length, and using an information retrieval technique on the sub-strings formed from the query string to identify a known string of characters equivalent to the query string.

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More particularly, neither Damashek nor Ortega are seen to use sub-strings of varying lengths such that at least two of the formed sub-strings differ in length. As is described in Damashek at col. 5, lines 24 to 30, reference documents are parsed into n-grams, where "n" is fixed at a useful value such as "5". In addition, Figure 3 of Damashek shows formed n-grams which are all of length "2". Thus, Damashek is seen to fix the value of "n" such that all of the n-grams are of length "n". Damashek is not seen to disclose forming sub-strings having varying lengths such that at least two of the formed sub-strings differ in length.

Ortega has been carefully reviewed and is not seen to remedy the deficiencies noted with respect to Damashek.

Accordingly, Damashek and Ortega, when taken alone or in any permissible combination (if any permissible combination even exists), are not seen to show each and every one of the claimed features.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, for at least the same reasons, Claims 12, 23 and 34 are seen to be in condition for allowance.

The other claims are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should matters remain which the Examiner believes could be resolved in a further


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telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fee in connection with the submission of this paper, any additional fees which may be required, now or in the future, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 50-2638. Please ensure that the Attorney Docket Number is referred when charging any payments or credits for this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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